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Background

1. Communist induced land reform in Estonia dates back to the time of the first Russian occupation and agriculture has been rigidly supervised since 1944. At a farmers' conference in Tallinn in March 1946, People's Commissar of Agriculture G. Abels stated that in the course of the land reform 27,245 farmers had been allotted 338,000 ha of land, and that the number of farms had risen by 16,800 since 1939. These figures indicate an average size of 12.5 ha for a new settler's farm. In Estonia a farm of this size cannot be considered a self-supporting unit.

Delivery Quotas

2. There are farms of the following sizes in Estonia: less than ten ha; from ten to fifteen ha; from fifteen to twenty ha; from twenty to twenty-five ha; and from twenty-five to thirty ha. Delivery quotas are considerably higher for the big farms and those of medium size than for the small ones. For example, one twenty-ha farm had a yearly quota of 45 kg. of cereal per ha, whereas the corresponding quota for a farm of twenty-five ha was 135 kg.
3. Quotas are very high and non-fulfillment is widespread. Old farms can usually meet their quotas by using old stocks. Since 1946 heavy fines have been levied for non-fulfillment and have caused many farmers to flee to Sweden.

Taxes

4. Since taxes are imposed according to the same scale as that used for delivery quotas, the large farms are especially hard hit. Taxes are very high (in 1945 1,200 rubles for an 18-ha farm) and farmers are forced to sell their products on the free market.
5. Aside from taxes, farmers are obliged to make donations in cash and in produce to various funds, such as the Red Army Fund and the Invalid Fund. Cases are known where such donations were forcibly taken from farmers who had previously met their quotas.

Sovkхозes

6. Sovkhoz (State farms) have been established in great numbers, whereas kolkhoz (collective farms) have not been organized so far. Sovkhoz workers are paid in cash on a piece-work basis at a wage-scale determined by the sovkhoe manager. Agricultural piece-work was previously unknown in Estonia.
7. In addition to Minister Alfred Mõtus, a high official in the central administration of sovkhoses is A. Vabamets. The following people are sovkhoe managers:

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By: 027

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R. Härmalt in Tõlla, about 30 km. southwest of Viljandi  
J. Ignatova in Uula, about 12 km. southeast of Pärnu  
J. Kaasikov in Haiba, 59° 8' N. Lat. and 24° 28' E. Long.  
J. Kartan in Vao, near Tapa in Virumaa  
A. Punison in Lungu, about 5 km. northeast of Käru in Järvamaa  
A. Lind in Kostivere, about 20 km. east of Tallinn  
Tolsberg in Lihula, 58° 44' N. Lat. and 23° 40' E. Long. in Läänemaa  
Küli Nigol in Hõgiaru, about 10 km. southwest of Tartu on road to Elva  
A. Nobel in Vinni, about 5 km. southwest of Rakvere  
Leida Parker in Kanara, near Võru  
V. Veinberg in Soontaga, about 10 km. east of Tõrva in Pärnumaa  
F. Weltmänder in Küti, near Rakvere

Collectivization

8. Several centers for the lending out of horses and MTS's (machine and tractor service stations) have been established in various places in Estonia. There are twenty-five MTS's.

Five Year Plan

9. The official figures of the new Five Year Plan illustrate the present level of Estonian agriculture; for example:
- a. Meat production will have to be raised to 20,000 tons by 1950. In 1939, 56,000 tons were produced.
  - b. Butter production envisaged for 1950: 9,000 tons. Production in 1939 was 17,000 tons.
10. According to an Estonian agricultural expert who no longer resides in Estonia, the present situation is only partially a result of the recent war. The chief cause is the Sovietization policy outlined above, which has as its aim the creation of a situation in which complete collectivization will be the only way out.

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